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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boone County Emergency Management Agency
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March 20 through 26, 2016 is Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Indiana. The National Weather Service, in conjunction with the Indiana State Police and Public Safety Commission, Indiana Homeland Security, the Department of Education, the Broadcasters Association, the American Red Cross, Amateur Radio Operators and Boone County public service agencies, including the Boone County Emergency Management Agency, will conduct statewide and local tests of communication systems on **Tuesday, March 22 between 10:15 AM EDT and 7:35 PM EDT.**

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to build toward a Weather Ready Nation where Hoosiers are prepared for and respond to all dangerous weather and flood hazards.

If weather postpones the tests, make-up drill day is Wednesday, March 23 at the same times.

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 mph.

TORNADO SAFETY

IN HOMES OR SMALL BUILDINGS:

Go to the basement (if available) or to an interior room on the lowest floor, such as a closet or bathroom. Wrap yourself in overcoats or blankets to protect yourself from flying debris.

IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, OR SHOPPING CENTERS:

Go to interior rooms and halls on the lowest floor. Stay away from glass enclosed places or areas with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums and warehouses. Crouch down and cover your head.

IN CARS OR MOBILE HOMES:

ABANDON THEM IMMEDIATELY! Most deaths occur in cars and mobile homes. If you are in either of those locations, leave them and go to a substantial structure or designated tornado shelter.

IF NO SUITABLE STRUCTURE IS NEARBY:

Lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head.

More useful severe weather preparation and safety information is available at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/>

A copy of the National Weather Service Preparedness Week Newsletter is attached.